

Substitute for form 1449 A & B/PTO				complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	
				Confirmation Number	
				Filing Date	April 1, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Hiroo MATSUNAGA
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q69266

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ³ (if known)		
JS	AA	4,940,069	A	07-10-1990	Nakaski, et al.
	AB				
	AC				
	AD				
	AE				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ²	Number ⁴	Kind Code ³ (if known)			
JS	AF	JP	63-151,410	A	06-24-1988	Toyo Tire and Rubber Co., Ltd.	No
	AG	JP	11-157,310	A	06-15-1999	Bridgestone Corporation	No
	AL	JP	51-119,776	A	10-20-1976	Bridgestone Corporation	No
	AM	JP	8-47,929	A	02-20-1996	Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	No
	AN	JP	1-145,208	A	06-07-1989	Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	No
	AO	JP	8-267,457	A	10-15-1996	Ohtsu Tire & Rubber Co., Ltd.	No
	AP						
	AQ						
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
	AU						

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
	AV		
	AW		
	AX		
	AY		
	AZ		

Examiner Signature	James Sells	Date Considered	4-19-04
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.